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1 - museum  
2 - map  
3 - newspaper clipping  
4 - photograph  
5 - other material  
6 - no information  
7 - other

MOUNTVIEW

MR. RAY BELL

913 FRANKLIN ROAD  
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

HOME (615) 373-3638  
OFFICE (615) 373-4343

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

APR 11 1968  
FBI - MEMPHIS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-15-83 BY 1045  
AND 11-15-83 BY 1045

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Davis-Rozelle Residence

and or common Mountview (Preferred)

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 913 Franklin Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Brentwood

N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee

code 047

county Williamson

code 187

## 3. Classification

## Category

☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object

## Ownership

☐ public☒ private☐ both

## Public Acquisition

N/A in process

being considered

## Status

☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress

## Accessible

☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no

## Present Use

☐ agriculture☐ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☒ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☐ other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Charles Ray Bell

street &amp; number 913 Franklin Road

city, town Brentwood

N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee 37027

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Williamson County Courthouse

street &amp; number Courthouse

city, town Franklin

state Tennessee

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Williamson County Survey

TDOT Survey Files

See continuation sheet  
has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date 1982

1982

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

Tennessee Historical Commission, 701 Broadway

Tennessee Department of Transportation, 505 Deaderick Street

city, town

Nashville

Tennessee 37219

Nashville

state Tennessee 37203

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Mountview

Item number 6

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## REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

DOT/FHWA requested a determination of eligibility on Mountview in 1982. The property was determined eligible by the Keeper of the National Register on November 22, 1982.

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mountview, a transitional Greek Revival/Italianate residence, is located on a flat semi-wooded lot in Brentwood, Tennessee in northern Williamson County. The two story, ell-shaped, brick house was built in 1860. The house, which faces Franklin Road (Highway 31) on the east, has woodland and pasture to the south and a modern subdivision on the north and west. A wooden board fence delineates the property's boundaries. Limestone block piers flank the driveway entrance, and the south pier contains a stone tablet inscribed, "Mountview."

The three bay front (east) facade of the house is dominated by a monumental center portico. The two story portico is composed of four square, paneled columns with Corinthian-like capitals, a paneled parapet with a centered, shallow, triangular pediment, and paired brick A lattice-work railing surrounds the balcony porch. The recessed entrance is a double leaf four panel door, flanked by pilasters and sidelights and surmounted with a four light transom. The two top panels of the door and the top lights of the sidelights have round arch moldings. The molded doorframe contains a carved flower on each side, level with the door handle. The windows on the main facade are paired, double-hung, 4/4 sash, separated by a decorated paneled mullion and joined by a single wood lintel.

Extending east from the northern end of the main block is a two story brick ell that terminates with two joined, flush, gable chimneys on the west facade. Single flush gable chimneys are located on the north and south gable ends. The north facade of the house contains five 6/6 double hung windows, two small 4/4 double hung windows, and a single leaf entrance. The entrance is located on the west end and is sheltered by a portion of a porch roof that extends to the original detached kitchen. The small brick kitchen contains one 6/6 double hung window.

The south facade of the house contains a single 6/6 double hung window on the first story of the original brick section of the house. A two story frame addition has been added to the west end of the house. The frame addition contains a tripartite window (4/4, 6/6, 4/4) on the first story. There are also two small 6/6 double hung windows, one on each story.

The rear or west facade of the house is composed of a variety of heights and textures. A one and two story frame addition occupies the area formed by the ell of the 1860 brick house. The first story of the frame addition was built in 1924 and the second story in 1976. A screened-in porch extends from the frame addition to a small, shed roof, frame addition on the original detached brick kitchen. A single leaf entrance is located on the southern end of the frame addition.

Mountview contains three rooms and a central hall on the first floor of the brick portion of the house and four bedrooms on the second floor. The frame addition consists of a kitchen/breakfast area on the first floor and a dressing room/bath on the second floor.

The central hall contains a curving staircase that begins along the south wall. The staircase has a tapered, octagon-shaped, newel post, turned balusters, and decorative scroll work applied to the sides of the stairs. A rear entrance of double leaf French doors is located on the west wall under the stairs. Four doors lead from the central hall into adjoining rooms. The doors all have shouldered architrave surrounds, deep paneled reveals, and paired French doors. The French doors probably date from the 1924 alteration.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet      Mountview

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On the south side of the central hall is the current dining room. The fireplace, located on the south wall, has a brick surround and a shouldered architrave mantel. On the west wall of the dining room is a second doorway. The entrance has paired French doors, surmounted by a seven light transom and flanked by four light sidelights. This doorway may have originally been an exterior entrance, prior to the construction of the frame addition.

There are four bedrooms on the second floor, three of which are directly over the downstairs rooms. All three of these rooms contain identical fireplaces with plain pilaster and entablature mantels. The fourth bedroom is located on the east side of the large landing hall and contains the two-leaf, French door entrance to the portico's balcony. A large bathroom was added between the two bedrooms on the north side in 1924. A modern dressing room/bath was added in 1976 in a frame addition off the south bedroom.

Although changes have been made to the interior of Mountview, the house retains much of its original integrity with its wide board floors, deep baseboards, fireplaces, and wood trim. The majority of changes that have occurred to Mountview were in 1924 and have since gained significance on their own accord.

Directly behind the southwest corner of the house is a narrow, two-story, brick smokehouse on a limestone foundation. The smokehouse, contemporary with the house, has a gable roof with a simple boxed cornice. A single leaf door and small window are located on the east side of the building.

South of the house are two small frame outbuildings dating from the turn of the century. One is a narrow, one and a half story shed with a gable roof. The raking eaves of the building are trimmed with pierced bargeboard in a modified fleur-de-lis pattern. A single leaf entrance and a four light window are located on the west gable end. The east end contains two openings filled with lattice-work. The second frame outbuilding is a one story garage and shed structure located west of the frame shed. This simple frame building has decorative bargeboard along the east gable end.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1860, 1924 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Mountview is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance to Brentwood, Williamson County, Tennessee. The two story, transitional, Greek Revival/Italianate house was built in 1860 by William A. (Buck) and Judith Robertson Owen Davis.

Mountview is an excellent example of the transition from the formal Greek Revival style to the highly decorated Italianate style. The formal symmetry of the central hall plan house and the monumental center portico, composed of classical elements, show the stylistic elements of the Greek Revival period. The bracketed cornice, the paired windows, the embellishment of decoration of the wood surfaces, and the arched moldings of the side-light windows and upper door panels reflect the Italianate details added to the Greek Revival form house.

In 1865, Davis sold the house to Ashley Bascom Rozelle, a retired Methodist minister who reportedly stopped overnight on his way to purchase property in Franklin and, instead, bought the Davis property. The Rozelle family continued to live in the house until it was sold at auction to Charles P. Wilson in 1924. The Wilson family was responsible for many of the modern (1924) changes to the house, including the addition of the bathrooms, the rear frame addition, and the screened-in rear porch that connects the house to the original detached kitchen.

Although there have been alterations and additions to the house, they are, for the most part, minor changes that have acquired their own significance. The additions to the house have occurred at the rear and are of frame construction, easily distinguishable from the original brick structure. Even the original detached kitchen remains, in a sense, detached from the house, due to the openness of the screened-in porch.

The property includes three outbuildings, two contributing and one non-contributing. The brick smokehouse and frame shed contribute to the property, while the frame garage/shed is non-contributing.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bowman, Virginia McDaniel. Historic Williamson County: Old Homes and Sites. Nashville: Blue and Gray, 1974.  
Little, Vance. Historic Brentwood. Brentwood, TN: J.M. Publications, 1985.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres  
Quadrangle name Oak Hill, Tennessee 308SE

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary follows the existing property lines as shown on the enclosed map, less a 17 foot wide strip of land extending 368 feet along Franklin Road. This includes sufficient property to protect the historical integrity of the house.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janice Nolan, Staff Historian  
Elizabeth A. Straw, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Tennessee Department of Transportation  
Tennessee Historical Commission

date July 1986

street & number 505 Deaderick Street  
701 Broadway

telephone (615) 741-5363  
(615) 742-6722

city or town Nashville  
Nashville

state Tennessee 37203  
Tennessee 37219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register



### Mountview

It is hard to believe that Mountview, situated on Franklin Road, was completed and sold by its builder within four years of its completion. The builder was William P. Davis, long-time Brentwood resident. His wife was Judith Robertson Owen, the daughter of Everett Owen, who lived in a fine brick house nearby. Mountview was begun and completed in troubled times: it was finished in 1861 after the War Between the States had begun, and was sold shortly after the war was over.

Mountview's style is starkly Greek Revival, with tall trim columns heavily moulded along the roof line. On the interior, the wide entrance hall is flanked by large parlors and a circular staircase. The baseboards are deep, and the ceilings are eleven feet high with handsome mouldings and deep door frames.

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*"While spending the evening at Mountview, Ashley B. Rozell, a Methodist minister, bought the place."*

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In the fall of 1865, a lone horseman rode up to the door of Mountview and asked for lodging for the evening. The stranger was Ashley B. Rozell, a Methodist minister, large land owner, and successful businessman. He was on his way to Franklin to buy an estate there. During the course of the evening, he changed his mind and bought Mountview instead. Thus, the Rozell family became Brentwood residents, and remained so for over 60 years. They were prominent people, and active in local affairs.

Ashley Rozell, who was of French Huguenot descent, was ordained as a Methodist minister in 1822 and served various churches in the Tennessee Conference until he retired from the ministry in 1833. His father Solomon Rozell was a pioneer in West Tennessee and Memphis and became a wealthy landowner there.

Although Ashley B. Rozell had retired from the ministry, he never lost his interest either in religion or in the Methodist Church. He was instrumental in the founding of the Brentwood United Methodist Church, and contributed generously to the building fund of its structure on Church Street that was completed in 1886. Reports are that the church at one time was named for Ashley B. Rozell.

Ashley Rozell died in 1886, a man of considerable wealth. He owned 1,640 acres in Arkansas, several lots in Memphis and a large tract in Texas in addition to his Brentwood holdings. Mountview remained in the Rozell family until it was sold to Charles P. Wilson in 1925.

The Wilsons made improvements for the sake of convenience, installing baths and building a screened porch to connect the house with the detached kitchen. They also added a back staircase so that the upstairs traffic would not be limited to the front winding staircase.

Mr. Wilson was for a long time Magistrate to the Quarterly Court of Williamson County. His heirs sold the property to Ray Bell in 1980.



## MOUNTVIEW

-Williams Davis's (builder of Mountview) family lived in Carondelet; moved back to Carondelet after he sold Mountview; married to Judith Robertson Owen whose family owned Cloverland (Brentmeade); son, Tom Davis, became a doctor

-Davis's wife was an Owen who owned Cloverland (Brentmeade); family also owned Maplawn, which was identical to Cloverland, on Moores Lane; Primm home, and Forge Seat; Gasser (cousin to Purity milk people) family bought Cloverland; Gassers sold to Brentmeade; Dorothy Gasser married Primm;

-Rozell bought Mountview from Davis; decedent lives on Belle Meade Boulevard

-C.P. Wilson bought home from Rozells; Pat Wilson (son) married Ann Potter (whose father, Justine Potter, owned coal mines in Kentucky; whose only sister married Minefee on Holly Tree Gap)

-Ed Potter (Justine's brother) founded Commerce Union Bank; owned Oak Hall for years; sold to Stubblefields; leased Maryland Farms to train thoroughbreds; married Bertha Herbert and lived at Treemont; second wife was Catherine Tyne (National Life family)

-Fletcher Wilson (another C.P. Wilson son) lived at Mountview after his father; daughter is Ann Fletcher Wilson who married Bill Cherry

## MISCELLANEOUS

James Crockett (Park land) married Catherine Walker Bell whose family lived where Chenoweth is; John Bell who ran for President against Abraham Lincoln was also from this family

Gassers later bought land from Bells

## **MOUNTVIEW**

Mountview boasts neat trim lines and tall white columns. It is located on the West Side of Highway 31, some two miles south of Brentwood. The columns are handhewn and the porches are floored with cedar. This nine room brick house was built by William A. (Buck) Davis and was completed during the early years of the Civil War. In the fall of 1865, a traveler stopped to spend the night at the Davis home. He was Ashley Rozelle, Sr., and he was on his way to Franklin to buy an estate; but before he left the next morning he had bought Mountview instead! To this tract of 343 acres he later added 82 acres to the north, bought from the widow of Thomas P. Moulton.

Ashley Rozelle was born in North Carolina in 1802 and came to Brentwood from Smyrna, TN. He became a minister in the Methodist Church in 1825 and was widely known circuit rider in Middle Tennessee. After his retirement from the ministry, his keen interest in religious matters continued and he was active in the young Brentwood church. Mr. Rozelle was married three times, first to Margaret Ralston, then to Henrietta Burnette Nelson and then to Martha Ann Chambers. There were no children of the first marriage; there were five by the second: Mary, Logan, Ruford, Martha and Ashley, Jr. and four by the third marriage, William, Henrietta, Lockey and Lizzie.

The story is told that when his daughter, Lockey, was 16 she went out as usual to bring up the cows for milking; however, on this evening she wore her "Sunday" dress under her every day one and eloped with William N. Murray, a neighborhood farmer. Four eight years her father refused to forgive her for this marriage and when they did meet again his greeting was, "Well Lockey, it sure took you a long time to bring up the cows!" His forgiveness must have been quite complete, for at his death the Moulton farm went to Lockey and her husband, where they remained during their lifetime, sturdy members of the community. A daughter, Nell, married D.C. Bowman and they were the parents of Dr. Dunklin C. Bowman, Nashville dentist.

At Mr. Rozelle's death in 1886, Mountview went to his son Ashley, Jr., who had married Emma Sangster. They had eight children. Two of the sons, Marvin and Leslie, made it their home until 1924, when it was bought at an auction by Mr. and Mrs. C.P. Wilson, Sr. (he of Fletcher-Wilson coffee Company) who still live there. Their sons, Charles P. Wilson, Jr. and David K. Wilson are prominent Nashville business men. A third son, Billy, died in an automobile accident several years ago.

When quite a small boy, David was one of the lively group who road the interurban to and from school. On the days that Porter Epps was conductor, David joined in the fun and frolic of the group. When "Toby" Tucker was on the run, David remained quietly in his seat. When finally someone asked him why the difference, he replied soberly, "I'm afraid of Toby." What a change the years have wrought, judging from what we have read of David these days!

## **REFERENCES:**

Rosalie C. Batson

## MOUNTVIEW

Mountview was the last of the great plantation homes on Franklin Road to be built before the Civil War. It was built by William A. and Judith Robertson Owen Davis. The columns rise in trim, tall lines, characteristic of pre Civil War Middle TN plantation homes. The porches are floored with cedar. It was built from bricks made on the place. The central hall features a graceful circular staircase. The separate kitchen, smoke house and other outbuildings remain intact. The home was purchased in 1865 by Ashley Rozell, a wealthy planter and Methodist minister. It remained in that family until 1942 when it was bought and restored by Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Wilson. It is presently owned by Ray Bell.

## Brentwood Brochure

Mountview was the last of the great plantation homes on Franklin Road to be built before the Civil War. It was built by William A. and Judith Robertson Owen Davis. The columns rise in trim, tall lines, characteristic of pre Civil War Middle TN plantation homes. The porches are floored with cedar. It was built from bricks made on the place. The central hall features a graceful circular staircase. The separate kitchen, smoke house and other outbuildings remain intact. The home was purchased in 1865 by Ashley Rozell, a wealthy planter and Methodist minister. It remained in that family until 1942 when it was bought and restored by Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Wilson. It is presently owned by Ray Bell.

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*Midway, built as the home of Lysander McGavock*

Carnton.

Part of the tract of land on which Midway was built was inherited by Elizabeth Crockett (1795-1862) who married Lysander McGavock in the early 1820s, while some of it was bought from her brothers. Her parents, James and Mary Drake Crockett, had come to Williamson County when members of the Crockett family migrated here from Wythe County, Virginia, and settled around Brentwood in 1799.

Midway was built in 1847 after the first home burned. Its walls rose from slavemade brick on a foundation of native limestone blocks and other materials salvaged from the ruins of the earlier house. For a long time two of the old servant houses and the smokehouse with its nail-studded door, huge iron key, and hewn poplar salting trough remained behind the house recalling a distant past.

A large spring flowed from the southern slope of a hillside overhung by venerable oaks whose boughs had shaded the redman long before white settlers came with axes, spades and ploughs to ravage the area's natural beauty. Its waters refreshed man and beast for countless years and when the railroad was being run through Brentwood it was piped to the construction site. It gave its name, "Good Springs", to a post office and stagecoach tavern on the pike near the Little Harpeth River. The tavern was operated by the Ormes family with whom Lysander McGavock traded land to straighten boundary lines.

During the war Midway witnessed several sharp skirmishes and then sheltered the wounded of both sides. It served as headquarters for various commanding officers, and its grounds became the final resting place for at least one Federal soldier. During those grim days, Captain Joseph Harris, whose mother was a niece of Lysander McGavock, and who had grown up at Midway with his sister after their mother's death, managed to slip home for a few day's visit. He was captured and imprisoned in Ohio until his father, a Federal officer, could secure his

release. He then went to England where he died in 1865. In 1948, McGavock Hayes accidentally discovered Captain Harris's father's U. S. Naval officer's sword, his own Confederate sword, and a machete hidden in the attic at Midway.

Livestock and food were constantly being hidden and retrieved during those times when raiding enemy parties would swoop down without warning. Valuables were buried or otherwise cleverly concealed, while the meat was saved by placing it under a false roof in the smokehouse. Trenches and breastworks remained in the meadows along creekbanks until the golf green was developed in recent years. This part of the spreading lawn has never been under cultivation, having been used for over a hundred years as pasture lands.

The beautiful family cemetery, enclosed by an iron fence, is north of the house. Here Lysander and Elizabeth McGavock rest with their six children—Ephraim, Cynthia, Sally, Emily, Hugh, and Margaret. Here also are resting the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Lysander Hayes and McGavock Hayes.

In 1956 the property was leased by the family to the Brentwood Country Club. With its white columns gleaming through a vista of rolling meadows and shade trees, it is one of the most imposing sites to be found in an area abounding in elegant ante-bellum homes.

## Mountview



*Mountview, once the Rozelle place*

One of the beautiful ante-bellum Brentwood homes is Mountview located on the west side of Highway 31 in spreading lawns and flanked by rolling farm lands. Built during the early part of the 1860s by William A. Davis, it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Wilson today.

Buck Davis, as he was more generally known, married Judith Robertson Owen, the daughter of Everett Owen whose fine, brick home was nearby. The Davises were living here when, late one autumn evening in 1865, a lone horseman stopped and asked shelter for the night. He introduced himself as Ashley Rozell and said that his home was on Stones River in Smyrna near the Sam Davis residence. As he talked with his host before retiring, he mentioned that he was on his way to Franklin where he

wished to purchase an estate the next day. Mr. Davis said that if suitable terms could be arranged he would be willing to sell his place and instead of going to Franklin the next morning, Mr. Rozell returned to Smyrna the new owner of Mountview. The Davises moved to the old Hightower house on Wilson Pike, long a wellknown landmark which recently burned.

The Rozells were of French Huguenot blood whose ancestors had fled to America to escape religious persecution. They first settled in Baltimore but gradually drifted southward. Solomon Rozell, born in 1757, was living in North Carolina when he married in 1800. He had emigrated to West Tennessee by 1820 when that section was nothing more than towering forests and endless stretches of canebrakes inhabited by Indians and wild beasts.

By hard work and his great skill as a woodsman and trader, Mr. Rozell wrested a considerable fortune from the wilderness, and before he died in 1856 owned 1500 acres in and around Memphis. A street and school in that city bear his name today, both being located near the site of his home.

His son, Ashley Bascom Rozell, was born in South Carolina, June 11, 1802. As a very young man he began the study of the ministry and in 1822 was admitted on trial to the Sandy River Forked Deer District of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He became a full minister in 1825 and served as a circuit rider in Middle Tennessee for years being widely known.

In 1828, he married Margaret Ralston, the daughter of Major Alexander Ralston. She died within two years, and in 1832 Mr. Rozell married Henrietta Burnett Nelson, the young widow of Pleasant Nelson and daughter of Brooken Burnett of Rutherford County. They became the parents of five children: Mary, Logan, Ruford, Martha, and Ashley, Jr.

After her death, Mr. Rozell married in 1846 Martha Ann Chambers, the daughter of Thomas and Nancy Chambers of Virginia. She was the mother of four children: William, Henrietta, Lockey, and Lizzie.

Although Mr. Rozell retired from the ministry he never lost his religious interests and connections. He was instrumental in founding the Brentwood Methodist Church and kept a deep concern for all the places he had preached when a circuit rider. In his will he directed that \$5,000 go to the Methodist Episcopal Church South to be known as the Rozell Fund in memory of his 'sainted father who was a liberal supporter of the church.' Trustees were to be nominated by the presiding bishop and elected by the Tennessee Annual Conference with the interest to be collected by them and spent on mission work.

Ashley Rozell was a man of considerable wealth at the time of his death in 1886. He owned 1640 acres in Arkansas, 110 acres in Memphis lots, and a large acreage in Texas in addition to his property at Brentwood. In 1877, he had bought eighty-two acres joining Mountview on the north from Mrs. Thomas F. Moulton. This place he left to his daughter, Lockey, who had married William Nathaniel Murray. His other holdings were divided out among his children with the homeplace. After his wife's death, going to Ashley Rozell, Jr. who lived there with his wife, the former Emma Sangster of Brownsville, Tenn.

The old place remained in the family until it went under the hammer May 28, 1924, along with many of the beau-

tiful antiques which were sold for division among the heirs. It was bought at that auction by C. P. Wilson.

Mountview was built of bricks made on the place; its hand carved white columns rise in beautiful simplicity to support the roof and second story porch of the portico. The Wilsons made some changes for the sake of convenience. The outside kitchen, which was still in use when they bought it, was joined to the main house with a long porch and became a recreation room. Plain glass replaced the old red and blue panes at the doorway. A graceful circular staircase rises to the upper story from the back of the hall; another staircase in the rear of the house was added for a second access to the upstairs. Today the home is completely adapted to modern living yet keeps its aura of the past carefully wrapped around it.

Mountview has led a relatively tranquil existence except for the War years when it saw more history in a few weeks than most places see in a lifetime. Schofield's army hastened past its aloof facade that December dawn after the ghastly day before at Franklin. Later, what was left of Hood's army went by ragged and hungry, yet with spirits undaunted and battle flags snapping in the cold wind.

It heard the thunder of cannon at Nashville, and as silence gradually fell, remnants of the Confederate units came straggling past, retracing in defeat the path they had so jauntily trod a few days before. In the cold, slanting rain, amidst the welter of cavalry, caissons, supply wagons, ambulances creaking under the weight of the wounded, and infantry in full retreat along the muddy pike, rode an abject officer with the stars of a general on his collar. With hanging head and mournful eyes he scarcely looked right or left, but, painfully balanced against his one leg and holding the reins with his one good arm, seemed lost in melancholy. This was John Bell Hood riding past Mountview with one of the last hopes of the Confederacy dead behind him and his reputation as a leader in shreds.

But time has a way of closing over every aspect of human life. The tragedies and joys of one generation are either forgotten or unknown in the next. Today, Mountview lives in the present, cognizant of its past, but dedicated to being a useful home as it has been for over a hundred years.

## Mooreland

The land on which this beautiful home is located was a land grant to General Robert Irvin in 1785 for his Revolutionary services. His daughter Eleanor married James Moore who later emigrated from North Carolina and settled on this property when it was still part of Davidson County. An old stone house already built on additional land purchased by James Moore after his arrival here served as a home for the Moore family. Hardly had they gotten settled before Eleanor Moore died of typhoid fever in 1809 leaving a houseful of small children. She was buried near Liberty Hill Church, but since her tombstone has disappeared the exact place is unknown.

James Moore married Sarah Alfred in 1810 and moved from the rock house east of Wilson Pike to a log cabin in the yard where the main house was later constructed by his eldest son. Rocks used in the foundation of the log

## **MOUNTVIEW**

Hardwood pine flooring

Empire furnishings 1800-1840  
Victorian furnishings

### **FOYER**

2 pieces of wavecrest porcelain are located on the high petticoat table  
Oriental rug is approximately 120 years old  
The bronze sculpture is a Remington copy as is the Madonna and Child painting by Raffael  
The Argon brass lamps are original  
The sofa under the staircase is original to the house  
There is also a small round paper mache table and a wine cellaret

### **LIVING ROOM**

Original pieces to the home include the mirror over the mantle and the two loveseats  
The tea cart is an unusual piece of furniture, it has 2 round indentions which were used for tea and water pitchers

### **DEN**

1830 Plantation desk from Holtland Hall located in Brentwood

### **DINING ROOM**

Mirror from Holtland Hall  
The triple pedestal Empire table dates back to 1820, it's made of mahogany  
The chairs date to 1835  
The mirrored sideboard dates back to the 1830's and displays a Wavecrest porcelain jar and vases dating prior to 1990  
It also contains a wine cabinet and Federal clock

### **SUN ROOM/KITCHEN**

Originally a back porch  
Remodeled in 1976  
Sugar Chest and Wardrobe date to 1860  
When exiting the kitchen one can see a cistern pump and the original kitchen which is attached to the screened porch  
The original smoke house is located across from the kitchen

### **2ND FLOOR FOYER**

Rich in family history  
1920 photo of present owners grandfather and grandmother  
It also contains a butler's desk

### **MASTER BEDROOM**

1830 Empire plantation bed and trundle bed (Holtland Hall)  
Walnut Wardrobe dating 1855-1860 (Holtland Hall)  
Empire wig dresser

Ceiling fixture has an Astral lamp shade  
Argon lamps are located on the mantle

## 2ND BEDROOM

Period Wallpaper  
Sleigh bed

## BATHROOM

New York barber's sink dating to 1895  
Tiffany's 1900 curling iron is heated by burning alcohol

## 3RD BEDROOM

1830's 1/2 Teester bed made of rosewood  
Victorian sofa  
Empire table made of mahogany  
Empire washstand and table  
Mahogany chairs whith horsehide covering  
Tea stand came from Belle Meade Plantation auction

## 4TH BEDROOM

Bed dating to 1850  
Sheraton wash stand  
Present owners great grandmother and great grandfather's pictures

The step ups in the bedrooms were used to store the chamber pots



DAVID MUDD

*In a community known for its wealth of lovely residences, owners of one-of-a-kind manors live a lesson in history.*

## There's No Place Like Home

Many of Brentwood's mansions somehow survived the ravages of the Civil War, but the plantations they represented were abolished along with the way of life they represented. After the turn of this century, however, the same families whose names are synonymous with Brentwood's progress moved in and restored the area's valuable cache of old homes.

Mountview is one of the most magnificent of those homes still towering over the Brentwood landscape.

A classic example of antebellum architecture, the Franklin Road manor is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bell. Completed in 1861, the Greek Revival home has porches floored with cedar and is built with bricks made on the property as the house was being built.

Originally the home of William A. and Judith Robertson Owen Davis, the home's outbuildings, smokehouse and kitchen are intact. A graceful circular staircase swings through Mountview's main hall, where twin parlors show the 11-foot ceilings, deep baseboards and door frames, and the extensive, elegant mill work

typical of homes of the period.

Within four years of its completion, Mountview was purchased by Ashley Rozell. According to Brentwood Historian T. Vance Little, Rozell was a Methodist minister on horseback who had stopped at the residence seeking lodging for the night. The minister had been en route to Franklin to buy an estate there, but changed his mind while visiting Mountview.

Thus, Rozell and his family became Brentwood residents, and prominent members of the community for more than 60 years. Rozell helped found the Brentwood United Methodist Church, and lived in Mountview until his death in 1886. The home remained in the Rozell family until 1924, when C.P. Wilson purchased the home and added baths, a second staircase and connected the kitchen to the main house.

Wilson was a magistrate to the Quarterly Court of Williamson County for several years, and his heirs owned the mansion until Bell purchased it in 1980.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Brentwood's historic Mountview to be on Tour of Homes

Cletus Sickler/State Writer

BRENTWOOD — Mountview, located on Franklin Road, was just likely one of the last homes built in this area prior to the Civil War and will be part of Historic Brentwood's Tour of Homes on Oct. 3 and 4.

In 1976, Ray Bell bought the house and furnished it with pieces from the time the house was built, including seven pieces belonging to the builder of the antebellum home, William A. (Buck) Davis.

"I like old homes, and when this house came on the market, I was lucky enough to make it [the purchase of the home] happen," Bell said. "I'm proud of everything in this house."

Bell said he found many of the period furnishings at the Nashville Flea Market and at antique stores from Alabama to Kentucky.

"This was the last antebellum home built before the Civil War far as I know," Bell said.

According to Virginia Bowman's *Historic Williamson County Old Homes and Sites*, Davis sold the house to Ashley Rozell.

On a wall upstairs, Bell has a framed copy of an auction advertisement when the Rozelle family sold the property in 1924.

Bell said very little has changed on the exterior of the house since the 1900s except that the bushes are larger.

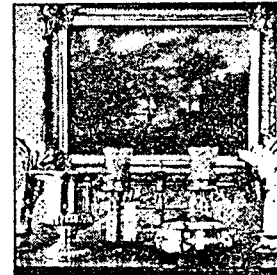
"Fall is my favorite time of the year to be here. You don't have to depend on air conditioning. The trees draw so well that it's really cool," he said.

Bell said he usually opens the house several times a year for various things and has been on the Brentwood tour before.

Tickets for the tour are \$8 in advance and \$10 the day of the tour. Proceeds will be used to save and restore a historic home at Crockett Park. For more information, call Linda Lynch 371-6060.

Other historic buildings on the tour are: Mooreland, Buchanan House, Woodmere and Owen's Chapel Church of Christ.

This year's tour also includes 10 new homes to represent today's Brentwood: Jade and Bob Ruff's home and Dixie and an Watt's home. Both of the homes are built on land that was originally part of Mountview. ■



Ray Bell, far left, stands in his home, Mountview, one of the houses featured in the Brentwood Tour of Homes. Above, the stairway and hallway in Mountview. Left, some of the antebellum furniture and a painting on display in Bell's home.

NINA ALEXANDRENKO



## Marking the way

Dixie Watts lends Bob Williams a hand as he erects signs for this weekend's tour of homes sponsored by the Brentwood Historic Trust. For additional information, see Page 3A

Lauren Latta • Staff



**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

701 BROADWAY  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219-5237  
615/742-6716

January 12, 1987

Charles Ray Bell  
913 Franklin Road  
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027


Dear Mr. Bell:

I take great pleasure in sending you this official notification that Mountview, 913 Franklin Road, Brentwood has, upon the nomination of this office, been placed in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior on November 20, 1986.

Enclosed is a sheet explaining the results of listing on the National Register for historic properties.

The State of Tennessee shares the pride we hope you feel resulting from this recognition. Please contact me if this office can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

  
Herbert L. Harper,  
Executive Director and  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

HLH:jd  
Enclosures

xc: Robert A. Ring, County Executive, Williamson County Courthouse,  
Franklin, Tennessee 37064  
T. Mack Blackburn, Mayor, P.O. Box 788, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027  
County Historian: Mrs. Joe Bowman, Lewisburg Pike, Franklin,  
Tennessee 37064

## RESULTS OF LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

**Eligibility for Federal Tax Provisions:** If a property is listed in the National Register, certain Federal tax provisions may apply. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 revises the historic preservation tax incentives authorized by Congress in the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the Revenue Act of 1978, the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, and Tax Reform Act of 1984, and as of January 1, 1987, provides for a 20 percent investment tax credit with a full adjustment to basis for rehabilitating historic commercial, industrial, and rental-residential buildings. The former 15 percent and 20 percent Investment Tax Credits (ITCs) for rehabilitations of older commercial buildings are combined into a single 10 percent ITC for commercial or industrial buildings built before 1936. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides Federal tax deductions for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures. Whether these provisions are advantageous to a property owner is dependent upon the particular circumstances of the property and the owner. Because tax aspects outlined above are complex, individuals should consult legal counsel or the appropriate local Internal Revenue Service office for assistance in determining the tax consequences of the above provisions. For further information on certification requirements, please refer to 36 CFR 67.

**Consideration in Planning for Federal, Federally Licensed, and Federally Assisted Projects:** Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to have an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties listed in the National Register. For further information, please refer to 36 CFR 800.

**Consideration in Issuing a Surface Coal Mining Permit:** In accordance with the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977, there must be consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located. For further information, please refer to 30 CFR 700 et seq.

**Qualification for Federal Grants for Historic Preservation When Funds are Available:** Presently, funding is unavailable.

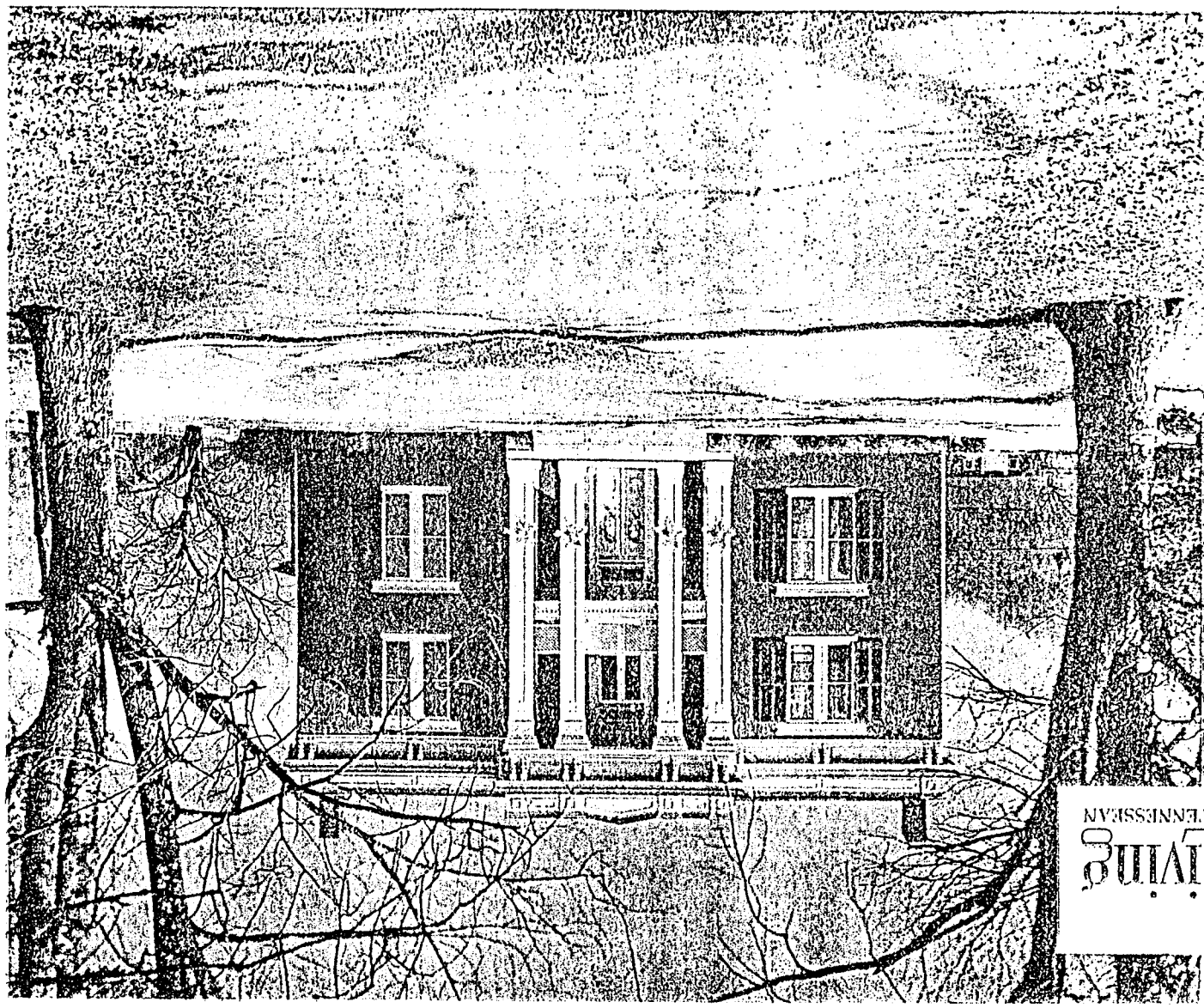
# Better Living

THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

SUNDAY MORNING  
DEC. 6, 1964  
Section F

—Staff colorphotos  
by Terry Tomlin

Mountview, built in 1861, faces Franklin pike. Its lawns and fields were crampled by soldiers from both North and South 100 years ago this month. Grandly scaled, but unpretentious, it is a fine example of the architecture of the period. Mountview has been the C. P. Wilson home since 1925.



—Staff Colorphotos by Terry Tomlin

on, and he stopped at Mountview and.

# Mountainview Has Seen Over 100 Decembers

BY CLARA HIRONOMY

**MOUNTVIEW**, with its hand-hewn white columns rising two stories tall and its cedar porch looking pink in the wintry morning sun, still had the "new" on it a 100 years ago when soldiers marched across its lawn.

Christmas seasons there are happier ones now, with the glow and glitter of decorations inside and out, and friends coming to parties and the kitchen redolent with holiday baking, and piles of bright-wrapped presents for visiting grand-

The house was only three years old that December in 1864 when Schofield's Union Army forces retreated across the fields and along the pike and blood's men advanced, only to fall back before Union pursuit.

The symmetrical facade of the red-brick structure is likely little changed since those troubled times though time and weather and scrub-brushes and ivy soap have bleached the cedar porch floor to the gray-white color of bones, and age and

wind have given a look of gauntness to the trees in the yard.

Only the hollies, bending under the dark red weight of berries the color of blood, remind of a December when a big plantation house meant a place where tired soldiers could take refuge from the cold, or the wounded find shelter.

The nine-room house, owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Wilson since 1925, was built in 1861. Legend holds that its builder was a man named Buck Davis and that he had lived in his fine new home only six months when he decided for some reason to sell it.

It may have been a serious reason, or an impulsive, no one seems to know. At any rate, as Rozell, riding by on horseback, was en route to Franklin to buy a home. Darkness came

delphia carpenter style.

on and he stopped at Mountainview and in the custom of that era, asked to spend the night.

He explained his mission and was offered the opportunity to purchase his hosts' house instead. Three generations of Rozells then owned Mountainview until the Wilson family acquired it nearly 40 years ago.

The Wilsons made necessary improvements, installing a downstairs bath, removing some blue and red glass panes in the doorway, and adding a large screened-in back porch to link the house with its originally detached kitchen. They also added a back stair so that house traffic to the second floor would not be limited to the winding stair in the center hall.

The basic architecture of the house is in the traditional Middle Tennessee style of the period, with wide center hall cutting through from front to back and dividing the two-story structure into two symmetrical halves.

Baseboards are deep, ceilings are 11 feet high, and handsome moldings and deep door frames are in the Strickland-Philadelphia carpenter style.

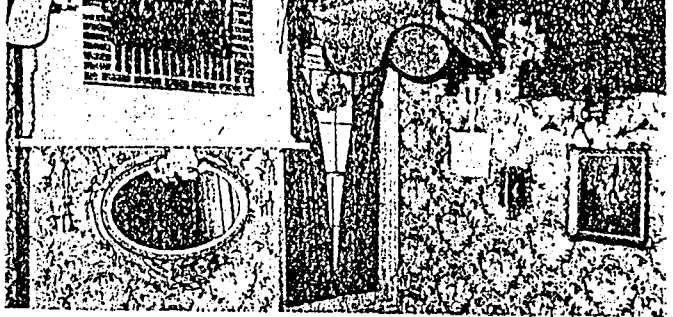
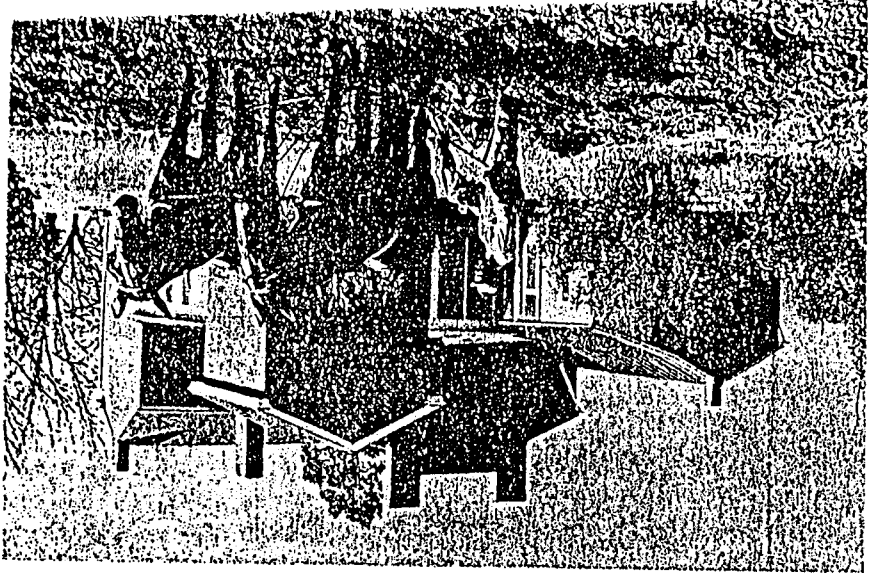
The old carriage house has become a garage; the smokehouse still stands sturdy. A small tool house with ornate trim around the eaves—no one knows just when it was built in the yard near the house—still serves as a tool house, though now for power movers as well as rakes and hoes.

There is still the look of the proudly unpretentious country house about Mountainview. Beautiful in its acute and simplicity, it is still the hub of a farm settling with white fences and red barns and spreading acres. There seems to be no record of the original holdings, but the present property embraces 212 acres on which Hereford cattle and a few riding horses graze.

There was a serene nostalgic mood of times past when this reporter and photo-

Today Better Living calls on Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Wilson at Mountainview, the tranquility of home on Franklin Pike, 2 miles south of Franklin, Tenn., whose firm was architect. Wilson Coffee Co. retired 12 years ago.

(Continued on Page 37)



# Mt. View Has

(From Page 1-F)

tographer Terry Tomlin visited Mountview in late November.

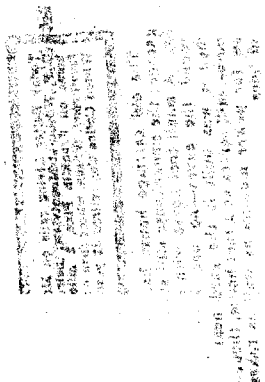
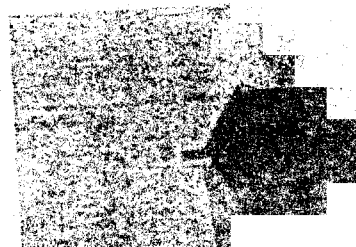
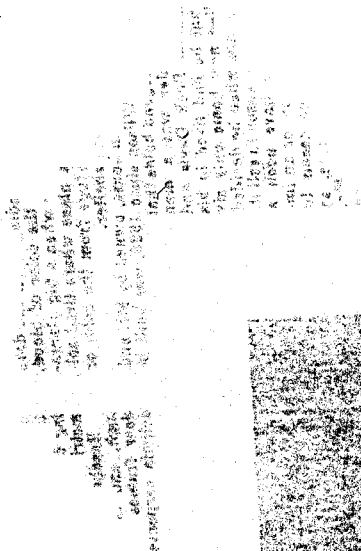
The clover that nestled thickly in cushions of grass has since shriveled under winter frosts, but the buds of the lilac hedge will continue to fatten even in winter sun's thin warmth.

The garden plot is just as it was in other years, handy to the kitchen but separated from the grass lawn by its lilac row planted long ago. Once it was divided by a walkway through its center, along whose edges daffodils bloomed faithfully spring after spring.

The garden path and the hardy bulbs have been taken up, but the deep rich soil of the garden plot continues to furnish vegetables for the table.

One the day of our visit Willson's employe, Alec Cunningham was plowing the plot, following the mules along the deeply turned ground where the last of the turnips had just been dug. "We do everything the old-timey way here," he said.

In the yard cold December winds ruffle the cedars, dark, ancient and secret which with the house, forms a staunch link bet ween Decembers separated by a hundred years.



# Mountview: Bell uses hobby to restore home

By Joetta Sack

Journal Staff Writer

*This is the third in a series of nine articles on the Historic Brentwood Tour of Homes.*

Visitors can easily envision women in hoop skirts and Civil War soldiers on the grounds of Mountview.

"For all practical purposes, this is one of the most authentic homes in Middle Tennessee," owner Ray Bell said.

The home was completed in 1861 using bricks made on the property by William P. Davis, a long-time Brentwood resident. It was built in the Greek Revival style, with tall white columns and low roof.

In fall 1865, a Methodist minister was riding through Brentwood and stopped at Mountview and asked for lodging for the night. The minister, Ashley B. Rozell, was on his way to Franklin to buy an estate, but bought Mountview instead.

Rozell became a prominent Brentwood citizen and is best remembered for his financial contributions to Brentwood United Methodist Church.

Little is known about the home's role in the Civil War. Bell said the grounds have been excavated so many times that no battle remnants from that period could be found.

Mountview was sold in the 1920s to Charles P. Wilson, former mayor of Brentwood. He donated the home to the Quarterly Court of Davidson County, who renovated it in 1924.

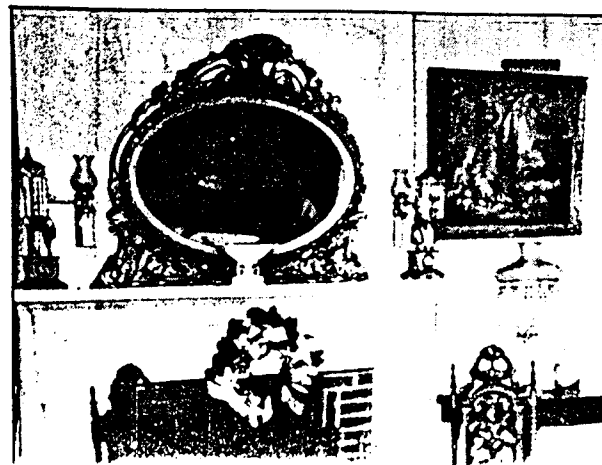
It was only the fourth owner of the home.

The home was in "horrible shape" when Ray Bell purchased it in 1976.

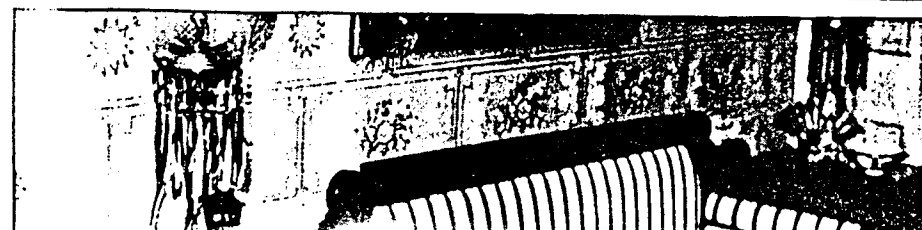
"I hadn't had anything done since the 1920s," Bell



Gill Traugber - Staff



In all these photos, the historic beauty and character of Ray Bell's Mountview is evident.





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Mountview was sold in the 1920s to Charles P. Wilson, former Magistrate to the Quarterly Court of Williamson County, who renovated the house in 1924.

Bell is only the fourth owner of the property.

The home was in "horrible shape" when he purchased it in 1976.

"It just hadn't had anything done to it since the 1920s," Bell explained. He undertook the "monumental job" of refinishing the floors, and had a heating and cooling system installed.

Bell has spent the past few years collecting antiques and redecorating the house in period American Empire and Victorian furnishings. The house also boasts several original pieces that have been passed down.

"I've always loved Southern architecture," Bell said. "This was the biggest hobby I've had—redoing this house and collecting the furniture." His collection includes several rare pieces, and he is particularly proud of his collection of Astral lamps.

Another one of his favorite pieces



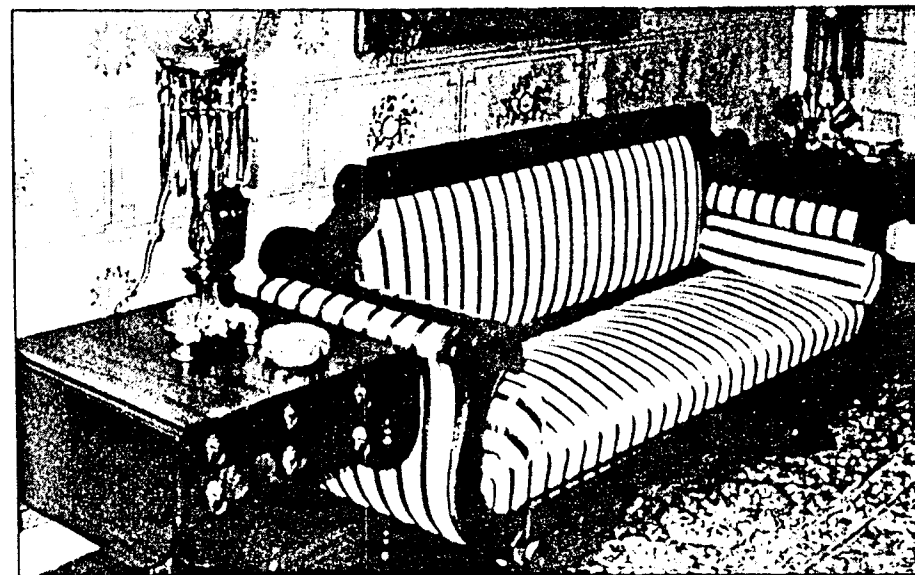
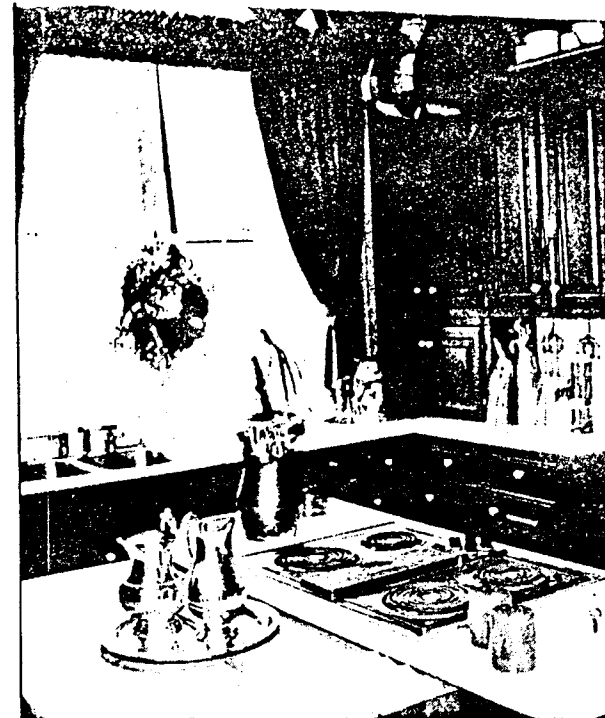
Gill Traugher • Staff



is an unusual double sink in an upstairs bathroom. "I found one of

those in 1980 that was in too bad shape to repair," Bell said. "I looked

In all these photos, the historic beauty and character of Ray Bell's Mountview is evident.



for years to find another one."

Bell has also collected old pictures of Mountview, and has one 1924 poster advertising the auction of the house.

very little about the house has been changed through the years.

"The rear area had a two-level back porch with a grape arbor,"

"I've got pictures from the turn of the century, and only one window was added to one side," he said.

"This house is exactly the same



